

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

L-02 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 IO-10 /068 W

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R 071730Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3982

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 26479

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CB, FR

SUBJECT: GKR EMBASSY FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

1. GKR CHARGE CALLED ON EMBOFF OCTOBER 6. HE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF LACK OF FUNDS MANY AT GKR EMBASSY HAVE NOT BEEN PAID FOR 3 MONTHS. MANY EMPLOYEES HAD COUNTED ON HIS PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT TO PERMIT HIM TO RETURN WITH ADDITIONAL FUNDS SO THAT EMBASSY CAN FUNCTION. WHILE BOTH PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER LISTENED ATTENTIVELY TO HIS REPORT ON FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, VANNSAK THOUGHT THAT AFTER HIS DEPARTURE THEY WOULD TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO OTHER MATTERS, AND THE DIRE FINANCIAL STRAITS OF THE GKR EMBASSY HERE -- AND OF OTHERS ELSEWHERE -- WOULD BE FORGOTTEN. SINCE HE DID NOT RETURN WITH FUNDS, HE HAS NOT YET DARED GO TO GKR CHANCERY. VANNSAK THOUGHT THAT DEFECTIONS OF PERSONNEL OR DISORDER IN THE EMBASSY -- OR EVEN PUBLICITY CONCERNING THE INABILITY TO PAY BILLS SUCH AS FOR TELEPHONE AND ELECTRICITY -- WOULD DAMAGE GKR REPUTATION AT TIME WHEN IMPORTANT STRUGGLE BEING WAGED AT UN. VANNSAK ASKED US TO REQUEST EMBASSY PHNOM PENH TO FOLLOW UP ON THE FINANCIAL REQUEST LEST IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL STRUGGLE AGAINST GRUNK BE LOST AS RESULT OF A LACK OF RELATIVELY UNIMPORTANT SUMS OF

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MONEY.

2. EMBOFF EMPHASIZED THAT GKR WOULD HAVE TO WORK OUT ITS FOREIGN EXCHANGE PRIORITIES ITSELF AND NOTED THAT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PAN SOTHI COULD CARRY NEWS OF FINANCIAL EMERGENCY TO PHNOM PENH NOVEMBER 8. WE AGREED, HOWEVER, TO TRANSMIT VANNSAK'S VIEWS TO EMBASSY PHNOM PENH TELEGRAPHICALLY SINCE GKR UNABLE TO DO SO BECAUSE OF FRENCH PTT STRIKE.
STONE

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NNN

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